

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5-10, 14, 16, 21, 22 and 33 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 15, 30 and 34 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A hammer-operated stapling apparatus for driving staples, comprising a magazine; a staple rail removably provided in said magazine for supporting a supply of staples of selected size; a follower slidably provided in said magazine for contacting the staples; a spring engaging said follower for biasing said follower against the staples; a head apparatus provided on one end of said magazine for receiving the staples in sequence; a handle attached to and offset from said head apparatus for positioning said head apparatus while driving the staples from said head apparatus; a plunger reciprocally mounted in said head apparatus for contacting the staples and driving the staples in sequence from said head apparatus responsive to a force supplied to said plunger; and a hand guard provided on said handle for shielding the hand from said force applied to said plunger;

2. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 1 comprising means engaging said staple rail and said magazine for removably mounting said staple rail in said magazine.

3. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 1 comprising a plunger spring provided on said plunger for urging said plunger away from said head apparatus.

4. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 1 comprising:

(a) means engaging said staple rail and said magazine for removably mounting said staple rail in said magazine; and

(b) a plunger spring provided on said plunger for urging said plunger away from said head apparatus.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 1 wherein said head apparatus comprises a back head carried by said magazine for receiving the staples in sequence; a front head spaced from said back head; and a pair of spaced-apart staple gauge spacers interposed between said back head and said front head to define a staple staging space for receiving said plunger and accommodating the staples in sequence prior to application of said force to said plunger.

12. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 11 comprising means engaging said staple rail and said magazine for removably mounting said staple rail in said magazine.

13. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 11 comprising a plunger spring provided on said plunger for urging said plunger away from said head apparatus.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 11 comprising:

(a) means engaging said staple rail and said magazine for removably mounting said staple rail in said magazine; and

(b) a plunger spring provided on said plunger for urging said plunger away from said

head apparatus [; and

(c) a handle attached to said head apparatus for positioning said head apparatus for driving the staples from said head apparatus].

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 1 comprising a magazine cover pivotally carried by said magazine for closing said magazine and enclosing the staples on said staple rail.

18. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 17 comprising a spacer removably mounted on said magazine cover and spaced from the staples for stabilizing the staples on said staple rail.

19. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 18 comprising means engaging said staple rail and said magazine for removably mounting said staple rail in said magazine.

20. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 18 comprising a plunger spring provided on said plunger for urging said plunger away from said head apparatus.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) A hammer-operated stapling apparatus for sequentially driving staples in a staple cartridge, comprising a magazine; a head attached to one end of said magazine; a staple rail provided in said magazine for accepting the staple cartridge; a follower slidably mounted on said staple rail and a spring provided in said magazine for engaging said follower and urging said follower against the staple cartridge and the staple cartridge against said head; a plunger reciprocally disposed in said head for driving the staples from the staple cartridge and said head

responsive to application of a force on said plunger; and a handle carried by said head for positioning said head while driving the staples from said head.

24. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 23 comprising a hand guard provided on said handle for shielding the hand from said application of a force on said plunger.

25. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 23 comprising means engaging said staple rail and said magazine for removably mounting said staple rail in said magazine.

26. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 23 comprising a plunger spring provided on said plunger for urging said plunger away from said head apparatus.

27. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 23 comprising a magazine cover pivotally carried by said magazine for closing said magazine and enclosing the staples on said staple rail.

28. (Original) The hammer-operated staple apparatus of claim 27 comprising means engaging said staple rail and said magazine for removably mounting said staple rail in said magazine and a spacer removably mounted on said magazine cover and spaced from the staples for stabilizing the staples on said staple rail.

29. (Original) The hammer-operated staple apparatus of claim 28 comprising:

(a) a hand guard reversibly provided on said handle for shielding the hand from said application of a force on said plunger; and

(b) a plunger spring provided on said plunger for urging said plunger away from said head apparatus.

30. (Currently amended) A hammer-operated stapling apparatus for driving staples of

selected size glued together in a staple cartridge, comprising a magazine; a staple rail mounted in said magazine for supporting the staple cartridge; a magazine cover pivotally carried by said magazine for enclosing the staple cartridge on said staple rail; a follower slidably mounted on said staple rail for contacting one end of the staple cartridge; a spring-engaging said follower for biasing said follower against the staple cartridge; a head apparatus provided on one end of said magazine for receiving the staples in the staple cartridge in sequence; a plunger reciprocally mounted in said head apparatus for contacting the staples in said head apparatus and driving the staples in sequence from said head apparatus responsive to a force applied to said plunger; and a [plunger spring provided on said plunger for urging said plunger away from said head apparatus] handle reversibly carried by said head apparatus for positioning said head apparatus while driving the staples from said head apparatus.

31. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 30 wherein said head apparatus comprises a back head carried by said magazine for receiving the staples in sequence; a front head spaced from said back head; and a pair of spaced-apart staple gauge spacers interposed between said back head and said front head to define a staple staging space for receiving said plunger and accommodating the staples in sequence prior to application of said force to said plunger.

32. (Original) The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim 31 wherein said staple rail is removably mounted in said magazine and comprising a spacer removably provided on said magazine cover and spaced from said staples for stabilizing the staples on said staple rail.

33. (Cancelled)

34. The hammer-operated stapling apparatus of claim [33] 30 comprising a hand guard provided on said handle for shielding the hand from said force applied to said plunger.